

Nation

Volume 14, No. 09 • March 16, 2007



Election candidates
round up...
Cree Idol winner
crowned

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Voting for a change

by Will Nicholls

If you were conducting an epidemiological study on Aboriginal peoples in Quebec you might come to the conclusion that we are allergic to ballot boxes. The First Nations voter is usually averse to both provincial and federal elections and that is reflected in the very low voter turnout. In most communities it's considered traditional not to vote in outside elections.

First Nations peoples don't have the history of another historically disenfranchised group, for instance black people in the United States, for whom signing up to vote was an act that would put their lives at risk in many regions of the land of the free.

Instead, First Nations here were rather apathetic about the whole thing. Even when we were told in 1969 that here in Quebec we could finally vote in a provincial election no one really did. They didn't know the candidates, what they stood for and what a vote would do to make First Nations life better.

Candidates didn't even court the Aboriginal vote in the beginning. Communities were isolated and could usually only be reached by air or canoe. The only interaction with outside authority involved the RCMP arresting someone for illegal possession of too much yeast (to make beer), to take children off to residential school or the Indian Agent making his rounds. Who would want to legitimize a system like that by voting for the politicians who had imposed it?

Thus it became a source of pride not to vote in outside elections. After all, weren't we a separate and distinct nation? Many communities, such as the Mohawks, even to this day do not consider themselves Canadians or Quebecers.

Times are a'changing, however. With our increasing population we now have the ability to influence the outcome of the election in the northern Ungava riding. And like it or not, Quebec is our partner for the next 45

years in the Paix des Braves, meaning we have a real stake in the outcome of provincial elections.

Personally, I am willing to vote in the March 26 Quebec elections, under certain conditions. Any candidate I would support would have to consider and actively work on First Nations issues.

The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador have come up with a good start with their "Final Submission to the Provincial Parties" paper.

They want commitments to no longer bypassing First Nations in government-related decisions that affect First Nations, honouring First Nations rights and having them respected by all administrative bodies authorized by the government. The AFN wants them to support the First Nations in remedying their socio-economic situation, including equitable access to lands and resources, the creation of 10,000 jobs and the construction of 10,000 housing units. Finally politicians should acknowledge the role and specific status of First nations in the development of Quebec regions and commit to fighting discriminatory attitudes towards First Nations.

The paper also includes that extinguishment of Aboriginal rights as part of a treaty or deal must end. Along with that any notions of territorial integrity or effective control of territory or non-Aboriginal sovereignty cannot be imposed upon First Nations peoples.

The paper is a good place to start and I would encourage any candidate seeking Aboriginal votes to give it a serious look and respond to it.

If in those areas we can affect the outcome of a vote and the candidate does respond then I would recommend we set aside the "tradition" of not voting and exercise our rights as to make a better life for all First Nations.

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on the cover

Photography: Cheryl Tom

Design: Cheryl Tom



The silly season

Political friends, foes and mortal enemies are all wearing the same face, that of the "if I don't get what I want when I want, I either walk away or all over you" type of expression. Some of your best allies, then, should be your best enemies, because the trust level is mutual. Where is all this coming from, me, an apolitical non-apologetic apprehensive about politics type of guy? It's coming from years of dodging the political platforms and switching to the weather channel when the good old boys start yapping away on television. Does it really matter what is said anyways? Yawwwn....

Yep, it's election time again for Quebec. Who you gonna vote for? The red party, the blue party, the green party or the red-neck party? Whatever the party, I'm sure it'll end one day when the world goes colour blind and vote on issues and parties that really care for them. Talking about parties, a group of young eager beavers came to my office and asked for my valuable advice on how to get what they want in life, something to do about nothing to do in life and everything was too boring.

So I sat them down and asked them what they wanted to do. Blurting out "we want a space to do something, something different!" they cried in unison. Quickly I sketched out a plan in simple symbols and eureka! Then I told them directly that if you are tired of old fogies telling long stories at important meetings when nothing was said by the youth, go to the meetings, present your stuff and vote on it. The reason why stuff doesn't happen is because you don't do anything at the hallowed general meetings. If your issues are not represented by youth, but rather by

someone else representing youth, then your stuff doesn't happen. You just have to get up and do it yourself. And with some help, you should be able to get what you want.

Talking way into the second five-minute attention span, I dwelled a little on why politicians can't really help at the base level, because that's not really their job, to get up and do something for you. It really should be your job to do it for yourself. I explained that the bumps on the road to growth can be leveled off if you plan for yourself, making dreams a reality and living those dreams. The road is real, the dream is not, but at least the road leads to an eventual reality. Depending on where you drive, you can reach nirvana.

Two and a half minutes into the third five-minute attention span, I talked strategy. Draw a picture of today, draw a picture of tomorrow and draw the road leading there with all the pitfalls and obstacles that are always bound to happen. Maybe a lot of work is required on the road before you can even use it. Perhaps the road is not pointing in the right direction, but at least walk or learn how to drive in the right direction; try not to get lost on the way from the home parking lot.

Noticing that the end of the final attention span was nearing, I talked about politics, something I thought I knew nothing of and not surprisingly so, I flunked at keeping the interest level high enough to get in the recommendation to go out and exercise your right to vote for what is rightfully yours, your future. So if by any chance those eager beavers rise to gain control of their future and do the right thing, then I guess I did what was asked of me.

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Canada

ANTI-PIG FARM GROUPS TO UNITE

by Steve Bonspiel

Opponents of the Town of Chapais' proposed pig farm are in for a pleasant surprise as the Sierra Club of Canada is looking to unite all opposition groups under one flag in their fight against the industrial pig farming industry.

The Sierra Club is trying to bridge the gap between opposition groups separated by distance and linguistic lines.

"We want to link all the anti-'mega-pork farm' groups that are very active around the province now but are isolated from each other," Claude Martel, Sierra Club's Director of the Quebec chapter told the Montreal Gazette March 5.

The move would enable better communication between the community of Waswanipi and their southern counterparts in the struggle to stop Chapais Mayor Jacques Berube from installing farm to house 20,000 pigs in the region.

After a provincial moratorium on industrial pig farms was lifted in 2006, opposition groups became frantic. Pig farms, they say, are dangerous when located too close to a town or city.

Effects on humans from drugs used to accelerate growth in the 7 million hogs produced in the province and then excreted into fields and water tables all over the province are as yet unknown. But according to Johanne Dion, who will act as spokesperson for the new Quebec chapter along with longtime activist and author Holly Dressel, we shouldn't be taking any chances.

"The problem is contamination of the water table in micro parts per million, that is very hard to measure and we don't know the effects this is having on human health," Dion said in the Gazette article.

A call to Brian Craik, who sits as one of the board members on the Quebec/Cree Comité de Examen (COMEX), confirmed that although the proponent raised the question of a pig farm in 2003, it is currently at a standstill.

The town of Chapais was given a preliminary directive along with follow up questions that needed to be addressed before moving onto the next stage of public consultations and a deeper look into how the project will effect the area, Craik said.

"We're expecting it anytime and then we'd organize hearings," Craik told the Nation. "We have already received a letter from Waswanipi saying that they don't want the pig farm."

Craik said that the last meeting COMEX had with the Chapais contingent was in October 2005.

According to Mayor Berube, the project will provide 300 jobs over 7 to 10 years and would help to strengthen the economy of the slumping town of less than 2,000. It will be located at least 14 kilometres away from the town. It would also provide Berube's personally owned potato farm with enriched manure to boost production.

Craik sees it as a way to economically strengthen Chapais, but he doesn't think a pig farm is necessarily the answer.

"They're pretty desperate for a project in Chapais," said Craik. "He's going to use pig manure to grow his potatoes, so he'll directly benefit from it."

"Chapais is almost a dead economy right now. Real estate prices are really low and it seems to me that some of those people must be wanting to get out of there."

A pig farm as far north as Chapais has been called into question because of the extreme climate that is foreign to commercial hogs. Craik also fears that the smell from the farm would not be good for tourism.

Craik had copies of a letter that Chapais sent to Waswanipi's newly elected Chief John Kitchen in August 2006, asking him and his council to participate in the project. Kitchen quickly replied that he had no intention of participating and was firmly against it.

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First Cree Idol Winner Crowned

Attawapiskat woman wins second shot at Canadian Idol

by Steve Bonspiel

Eight young hopefuls shook their booty and belted out a diverse mix of tunes in an attempt to win the hearts and minds of audience members and become the first "Cree Idol."

The contest in Moosonee March 2-3 drew over 600 audience members. Attawapiskat's Karen Sutherland was head and shoulders above the rest as she was crowned Cree Idol in the inaugural edition of the event.

"I'm pretty excited, pretty happy about it," said Sutherland, 25, when reached by phone. "It hasn't really hit me yet though."

Sutherland said that her singing style is eclectic, leaning from light fare – "The Rose" by Bette Midler, which she sang in the semi-finals – to the salty: she belted out her own rendition of "Look into your Heart" by Roxette in the final to seal the deal.

"I chose songs that I know very well, I didn't want to go up there with something I just learnt," she said. "It's safer to go up there with something you've been singing for quite a while and that's what I did."

Sutherland learned her lesson when she chose a Christina Aguilera song four years ago at Canadian Idol that was out her range and as a result, got her bootied out of the competition.

"You have to really work your vocals," said Sutherland, who started intense training two weeks before the competition.

She honed her skills by learning from her older sister Iris at the tender age of 11. Two of her brothers – she comes from a family of seven siblings – are also singers, but they did not meet the required 16-28 age limit of the competition.

Although she does not sing at events in or around Attawapiskat, she felt the desire to push herself further during the competition.

"In the beginning I was worried about the mic, worried about messing up the words," she said. "But I just tried to focus and feel for what I was singing and I did that and it came out the way I wanted to and I was happy with my performances."

"At first I wasn't giving it 100 per cent, but as I went along I started to realize how important it is to me and I saw things I didn't before," she said. "It opened my eyes and made me see that I shouldn't wait (for her musical chance). It was a really good experience."

Stan Kapashesit is co-owner of Solstice Productions, the company that helped produce the event. He was happy with the results and

All photos by Paul Lantz



Top: Cree Idol Winner, Karen Sutherland

Middle: Karen, host Phoebe Sutherland, and finalist Andrea Jolly

Bottom: Judges Lawrence Martin, Francine Linklater, George Witham



said that no matter what happens, his management company will be sitting down with Sutherland in the coming weeks to sign her up.

"After Canadian Idol is done, we're going to be talking to Karen," he said. Hopefully we'll work out a partnership and get her booked at shows."

Sutherland was on her way down to try out at Canadian Idol at press time.

Moose River Broadcasting Association, who partnered with Solstice Productions to make the event a reality, will be releasing a DVD of the event held at the James Bay Education Centre.

Kapashesit admitted he was surprised at the talent level displayed during the competition.

"There is a lot of talent the Cree people have and it's encouraging to see not only them singing, but the youth who are watching them," he said. "They see them on stage and hear them perform and hopefully it inspires them to consider music as a viable career option."

And for inspiring Cree or Canadian Idol entrants, Sutherland has a message:

"Just know if you really want it before you actually do it. If it's something you really want to do, that in itself will take you far. It's also very important to be confident and have family support."

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Service
Canada

Cherokees disown slave descendants

In a fit of ethnic cleansing, the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma have voted 77 per cent to 23 per cent to disenfranchise black descendants of Cherokee slaves, called Freedmen.

They adopted an amendment to their constitution that strips the rights and membership of their black brethren, who until now were considered Cherokee.

"The Cherokee people exercised the most basic democratic right, the right to vote," Chad Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, said in a statement. "Their voice is clear as to who should be citizens of the Cherokee Nation. No one else has the right to make that determination."

Opponents of the amendment say it was a racist tactic designed to deny the distribution of U.S. government funds and tribal revenue to those with African-American heritage, many of whom also have some Cherokee blood.

Advocates of changing the 141-year-old treaty rules defining who is a Cherokee say the tribal nation has a sovereign right to decide citizenship and that other tribes base membership on blood lines.

The Cherokee Nation, which ranks as the second-largest tribe behind the Navajo, has 250,000 to 270,000 members and is growing rapidly.

Cherokees, along with several other tribes, held black slaves and allied themselves with the Confederacy during the U.S. Civil War. The slaves were freed after the war but many continued living in Cherokee communities.

In 1983, the Cherokee Nation expelled many descendants of slaves as members, but a Cherokee tribunal ruled last year that the Freedmen were fully fledged citizens with voting rights. That court decision prompted the special vote.

Valentine's Day massacre – of ice

In two separate incidents in Whapmagoostui, youth took the phrase 'painting the town red' to a whole new level by literally painting the arena ice with red paint on February 12 and 14.

The first incident was deemed mischief and is still under investigation. "Minors broke into the arena and poured buckets of paint all over the ice and then they took the Zamboni to spread it around," said Senior Officer Steven Boudrias.

In all, six youth are being investigated for the February 12 incident.

Then on February 14 "they took the Zamboni and crashed into the boards, breaking the boards and the doors that open up for the Zamboni," according to Boudrias. "They also broke a few of those thick windows."

He also added that because of a large tournament that weekend, workers had to work around the clock to fix the damage. The cost of the damage is not yet known.

At least two of the kids were allegedly present for both incidents.

Boudrias said that the youth are being followed by youth protection to avoid a third incident.



Left to Right - Darren Rice, Jesse James Youngblood, Erland Campbell, Flint Eagle, Stuart Myiou, Teague.

300 has Native flair

The maker of Sin City, the dark action-packed thriller that became an instant cult classic, is at it again.

Based on Sin City creator Frank Miller's graphic novel, *300* is the story of the fierce battle of Thermopylae. But more importantly, it's a tale about Native people and their role in the movie.

The battle pits all of Greece against their Persian enemies, but in this case Aborigines take on the role of the Persians.

Six Natives play the entire Persian army with the help of special effects. Among them are three Mohawks and a Cree.

The *Nation* has not yet reviewed this film, but with that many Natives in one place, it's sure to be interesting to watch.

300 premiered March 9 at Paramount's IMAX theatre in Montreal.

NEMASKA BAND COUNCIL ELECTIONS

List of Candidates:

Chief:

- George Wapachee
- Isaac Meskino
- Jeremy Diamond
- Josie Jimiken
- Thomas Jolly Sr.

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- Clearence Jolly Sr
- Deborah Wapachee
- Edna Neeposh Sr.
- Gertie Jolly
- Jeremy Diamond
- Joshua Iserhoff
- Lawrence Jimiken
- Matthew Swallow
- Mathew Tanoush
- Mathew Wapachee
- Robbie Dick

Advance Poll
March 18, 2007

Elections Date
March 26, 2007

Ungava election candidate forum

by Steve Bonspiel



Aline Sauvageau, Quebec Liberal Party



Why should Cree voters vote for you?

I feel confident that my past experience as a political aide for the Minister responsible for Northern Quebec has prepared me to work with your communities and to serve as the Liberal Member of the National Assembly for Ungava riding. I am familiar with the priorities and issues of the Cree communities. I am extremely enthusiastic and motivated at the idea of working with the Cree Nation. For the past 20 years, I have worked with various political structures and developed considerable experience in defending issues and projects.

I'm well aware that the Cree Nation has developed its own vision and you have successfully established your own institutions and services. I consider that the role of the MNA is not to impose any changes but rather to provide complementary support in improving your programs and services in addition to having the privilege of representing your interests at the National Assembly. The challenge will be to make the opportunities that come with the existing agreements work for the Crees.

We must recognize the progress made in the past in education, in the delivery of health and social services, for example. Clearly, work still needs to be done to improve services and the quality of life for the Cree. We need to improve health care by promoting healthy living habits as well as diabetes prevention and treatment programs. I want to work to provide adults with the skills and training they need to access jobs now and in the future. The education system must offer sufficient training to the youth who will enter the job market every year. I also want to focus on improving family services, for example, improving child care services by increasing the number of places in daycare services allowing more women to integrate jobs as well.

Another priority is to complete the community broadband network project and to improve the economic perspectives with a focus on encouraging wind power development projects which will bring direct and long-term economic benefits to the Crees.

I believe that I can make a difference by ensuring a presence in the

communities and by learning more about the priorities and issues. I look forward to working with Cree leadership and understand that they have set an objective to ensure self-determination.

What is your stance on the current control that James Bay municipality mayors have over Cree lands under Bill 40? Do you think Crees should have more control over what happens on their territory?

I believe that Quebec's future depends on the economic and social development of all the communities that inhabit the territory. We share the same territory, we rely on the same resources, we are concerned about the same challenges and we have the same ambitions to see every member of our communities find self-fulfillment by actively participating in the building of a strong and inclusive Québec.

It is a question of justice and equity between the different groups of our society.

I am confident that our common desire will give us the opportunity to seek new ideas and solutions that will lead to productive partnerships and relationships, which, in turn, will improve the social and economic conditions of the entire population of Ungava.

We must provide opportunities to unite our strengths, to respect one another and to reach our common goal, which is to ensure the development of our territory. Our futures are intertwined. Our future is a shared one.

For the Quebec Liberal Party, it is clear that we must enter into dialogue, listen, mobilize our strengths and take action. I am here to listen. I am confident that the elected leadership, both Cree and non-Aboriginal, will provide guidance to discuss our differences openly and respectfully.

Initially, we are well aware that the operational mechanisms of the various existing structures including the Regional Council of Elected Officials (CRÉ), municipalities and First Nations differ in the operational aspects but we also have similarities in our concerns and responsibilities as elected officials. I believe that this constitutes a stepping stone towards a new collaboration and a new regional force. We must understand that this does not imply that we must intrude in each others structures at a political level, but mostly on how we can support each other. Our people must get to know each other.

If I am elected, I will do everything I can to ensure that the Cree communities are involved and consulted in any decisions taken in the territory.

What do you think about the Rupert River diversion? Is it good or bad for Crees?

I support all projects that have a positive impact on the Cree communities. The Eastmain 1A – La Sarcelle – Rupert River diversion project will bring considerable economic spin-offs in Northern Québec.

Hydro-Québec has committed itself to offer Crees and businesses contracts for at least \$240 million to implement the project. In addition to this, they will contribute an amount of \$43 million to carry out corrective measures, projects specific to archaeology and burial sites, promotion of traditional activities and compensation for impacts on mercury levels.

Quebec and Crees share a common interest. We both want to build a better future. We need to allow future generations to prosper from development of the natural resources and we must develop tools and opportunities to build together.

Three Cree communities recently had referendums on whether they should fight the Rupert River diversion. Do you know which communities they were and why they fought the diversion?

On December 1st, 2006, the three Cree communities of Waskaganish, Nemaska and Chisasibi made public the results of a referendum on the EM-1A Rupert Diversion Project expressing that the majority of their members voted against the Rupert Diversion that focused on the impacts of the EM-1A project.

In fact, the decision in 2002 in favor of the Paix des Braves Agreement was made by all of the communities. The Agreement with Quebec was ratified and approved when it was signed by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) in Waskaganish on February 7th, 2002 which is the basis of our discussions. We also must take into consideration that it is a process initiated by the Crees and for the Crees.

If Quebec separates, should Crees have a right to stay within Canada?

This question should be asked to the Parti Québécois candidate considering that they are the ones who want to separate. As for the Quebec Liberal Party, we want to unite. It is time to work together to resolve problems and to provide Northern Quebec with every possibility to prosper.

What does a walking out ceremony consist of?

I am not very familiar with the ceremony and have never had the opportunity to assist in a walking out ceremony but I understand that this is an important traditional custom for the Cree. If elected, I hope to be invited to attend a ceremony to see for myself what

the ceremony entails.

I am told that when Cree children are old enough to walk, they are dressed in traditional clothing and given tools similar to those used by Cree hunters – guns and knives for the boys, and scraping instruments for the girls. They are placed in a tent in which the elders of the community are seated. The elders then send them out of the tent accompanied by a family member with the infants pulling behind them with animals which have been hunted, sometimes geese, sometimes beaver or other small game. They then complete a circle around a decorated tree. When the boys have completed half the circle they are assisted in firing a rifle in the air. They complete their circle, re-enter the tent and give the animals which they have been pulling to the elders. For Crees this is a ceremony which symbolizes the expectation of productive behavior from individuals, the collective objective of work, and the worth of everyone in Cree society. Traditionally this ceremony is carried out in the morning. The opening of the ceremonial tent always faces east, toward the rising sun, which is a constant symbol of optimism and hope for the future.

How many Cree communities were there when the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed?

The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed on November 11th, 1975 by the Inuit and Cree communities. Eight Cree communities were signatories of the agreement. Since then, some of these eight communities have relocated and/or changed names. In 1992, the Oujé-Bougoumou-Canada agreement was signed which called for the recognition and the construction of the community of Oujé-Bougoumou.

What's the biggest Cree community?

According to the most current statistics, the coastal community of Chisasibi is the largest community. The community of Mistissini is also considered as the largest inland community.

Anything you would like to add?

I strongly believe that Crees should exercise their right to vote because you can make a difference as to who represents you. I hope that the Cree population realizes now more than ever the substantive nature of their power at the polls.

I think it is important that more and more women vote because real power also comes at the polls and by starting with active participation in elections.

The Cree vote does make a difference.

If I am elected, I look forward to working closely with Cree leadership and look forward to visiting all communities I will represent.



Why should the Crees vote for you?

Let's first remember that it's the Parti Québécois that proceeded to sign the Paix des Braves under Mr. Landry and Mr. Ted Moses and we follow, of course, in that line, in continuation of that signature and especially seeing it's application that hasn't been done under the Liberal Party's term since the past 4 years. I'm forced to observe that there hasn't been any effort on that side to apply this historical agreement between the two that was underlined (the

CREE NATIVE ARTS & CRAFTS ASSOCIATION



2nd Annual General Assembly March 28 & 29 in Wemindji

CNACA's mission is to diversify and grow a sustainable arts, crafts and cultural economy in Eeyou Istchee involving partnership among Cree Artist Artisans and Cree communities that will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou Nation while both encouraging contemporary means of expression and maintaining Cree Culture, Values, traditions and skills.

CNACA is currently seeking participants to attend its 2nd Annual General Assembly on March 28 & 29 in Wemindji. All interested CREE artist (artists, artisans, musicians, singers & story tellers, writer and so on...) should contact their local Representative to register. CNACA will cover travel and related expenses for five (5) delegates from each Cree Communities, including Washaw Sibi.

CNACA goals for this important gathering of Artists are to:

Inform everyone on CNACA on-going files and projects, programs and services;

Recruit new members for the Association

Organize Local Arts Committees

Seek and Receive overall direction about CNACA and Wachiya Store

Assess training needs on Arts and Entertainment

For additional information please contact CNACA office at 1-888-745-3001 or approach your local representative listed below:

CRA Representative
President, Alfred Loon

Wemindji Representative
Vice-Pres., Edward Georgekish

Nemaska Representative
Exec. Board Member, Joshua Iserhoff

Chisasibi Representative
Marilyn Bearskin

Eastmain Representative
Jamie Moses

Mistissini Representative
Glenna Matoush

Ouje-Bougoumou Representative
Kenny Mianscum

Waskaganish Representative
Jim (Tim) Whikeychan

Waswanipi Representative
Johnny Cooper

Whapmagoostui Representative
Joseph George Sr.

agreement) not only in Quebec but worldwide. So I place myself in the continuation of the relations between the Crees and the Quebec population, the one that can be observed in northern Quebec. Also, when I say application I could refer to the economical aspect, the relations between our two communities. So that's where I stand.

Other than the party itself, what separates you from the other candidates?

First off one thing I have to say that what's obvious and clearly separates us, is our belonging to this region. I am the only of the present candidates who has lived in the region for nearly 30 years and who still live here. My adversaries, on the ADQ's side, are from Lac St-Jean and my liberal opponent is from Abitibi-Temiscamingue. First observation. Another thing is that it's been over 20 years that I've worked as much at the administrative organization and the political of the northern region of Quebec, notably with the Crees and the Jamesians. We thought of the placement of the structure and you will observe the link to make with our party and our communities growing closer. We have to remember that it's under the Parti Québécois, at the time I was general manager of the regional council for the James Bay Development and after I've worked, for the past six years, for Mr. Letourneau's bureau as political councillor. But I have worked at placing the structure like all the ATR's of the region, the formally named the regional council for the James-Bay development and we have worked with the regional Cree administration to install mechanisms to help us work together and develop our region together.

What is your stance on the control that the James Bay Municipality has on the Cree territories under Bill 40? Do you think that the Crees should have more control on the territory and what happens on it?

Well I wouldn't necessarily talk about control; I would much more talk about developing relations, that's what hasn't been done in the past four years. I can tell you right now, I'm releasing my electoral platform in two days but I can say one of my engagements, and this is really important to me, I've talked with many chiefs of some Cree communities and that engagement is that there is a Cree-Jamesian summit and I don't say economic summit because yes, there will be an important economic aspect in this summit but I also want to stress an other important aspect in this summit: youth. This is something I will speak about on my platform: the importance we must give to our youth, as much in the Cree communities. Yes, there are problems in the Jamesian cities and by that I mean dropping out of school and everything else that brings along. It is my commitment to install mechanisms to allow each of our communities things like phys-ed and at the same time encourage them to stay in school. We have examples and I stress how much this means to me, and I have talked to many Cree chiefs and we've concluded that there is a problem on that level. You understand that I'm not putting a particular emphasis on economy so I would call it a Cree-Jamesian summit. In which we will also allow people like the James Bay mayors and the Cree Grand Council to have discussion tables allowing us to talk together and develop. I want to accelerate this procedure and promote these meetings. One of my expressions is to build together or develop our region. I mean to bring our communities together, we need to create hope

for our youth, promote Cree employee accessibility. We've always worked on that and that's why we've signed the Paix des Braves. I want to continue along these lines.

What do you think of the Rupert River diversion?

I don't think this is unique in Northern Quebec. We have to remember that there have been consultations as much in the cities of Chibougamau, Quéville, Matagami and the concerned Cree communities where people have spoken out against and for. So there has been a division within the Cree communities and these subjects remain concerns. I would like the government to reassure more these people that still have these fears.

This is why we've said yes to hydroelectric development but not necessarily at the exportation price. The hydroelectric development has to be used to create employment in our region. If we develop 50 per cent or more hydro to be used in factories down south and promote there job expansion while at home, it creates little or no jobs. At least let us have access to jobs with Hydro Quebec. That our youth obtain jobs at home. And this is not what's going on right now. So that's my fight. Same with all our natural resources.

Do you know why the three opposing communities to this project took that position?

I think that's democracy, I think those three communities are the most concerned and affected by the changes. They were much more concerned and scared by the changes. There has been another consultation in these communities and, I don't have the numbers but I think it revealed that there was only 25 per cent participation from the citizens and of that 25 per cent, 75 per cent was against. So there's still 75 percent of the population that was not consulted on the subject. That's why I say that before and after the people will have to be informed.

How many Cree communities signed the JBNQA?

If we go back to 1975, I think they were all represented by people whom I can't remember, I think there was a community that didn't exist at the time now known as Oujé-Bougoumou. But I think most communities were for but we have to keep in mind that at that time, the consultation was done very fast and was a little weak, and we seen afterwards that a bunch of clauses weren't respected which lead to lawsuit after lawsuit, year after year with good reason from the Cree Nation. Which led to the signing of the Paix des Braves. I remember in 1975 there was a bunch of promises made and that's why we can't do things that way anymore and must inform people so we must assure that it's done with our agreement and that we follow this very closely.

What's the biggest Cree community?

It's Chisasibi or Mistissini; it has taken a lot of expansion. I checked the numbers I think it has surpassed Chisasibi today but they're close.

Should Quebec separate, do you think the Crees have the right to chose to remain in Canada?

The first thing I have to say that we were the first party with René Lévesque to recognize natives as a people. And the Cree Nation, we gave the example to the rest of Canada and the world. And that being said we do promote independence but we want to do this within the respect of our different communities and the par-

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Thesis Research
The Paix des Braves Agreement of 2002:
An Analysis of Cree Responses



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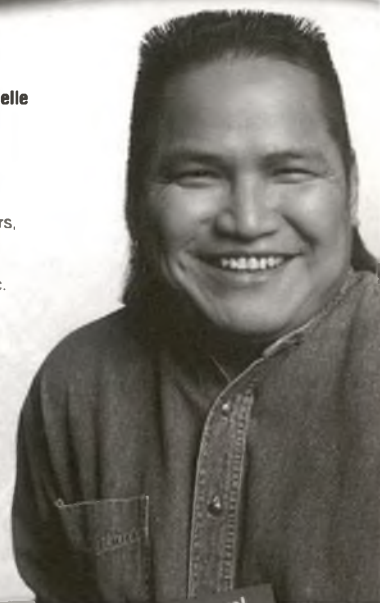
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ticularity of the northern region is that they're inhabited by the Crees and the Inuit. They will have to pronounce themselves as everyone else within Quebec. It will be done within respect of our communities. And if I remember correctly in 2003 Ted Moses gave his support to the Parti Québécois. So nothing will be done that goes against the populations that live in Quebec.

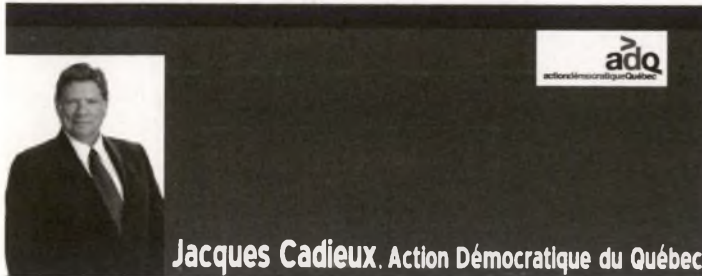
Do you know what a walking out ceremony is?

I've been to several ceremonies through my engagements. We've

brought several European tourists who wanted to attend to these ceremonies. So yes, I've experienced it for myself and I know what it is.

Anything you want to add?

I want to stress the Cree-Jamesian summit and giving hope to our kids, take care of dropping out and help sport to integrate them in our schools. These are my main focuses.



Why should Cree voters vote for you?

The ADQ party wishes to develop Quebec on an economic standpoint as well as a social standpoint, this would enable us to face some unfortunate facts such as; lack of newborn, aging of population, extreme high public debt. We need Quebecers contributions to reach a point of return where we would develop and become a place where it would be nice to live. We want to be leader of the patch in several aspects and keep an optic on future generations and a heritage to our children.

The Cree contribution and opinion is essential in the Quebec progress in the achievement we all wish to obtain for the entire province. We appeal to your communities, to your leadership and open mind of all communities.

What is your stance on the current control that James Bay Municipality mayors have over Cree lands under Bill 40? Do you think Crees should have more control over what happens on their territory?

As an autonomist party, we understand that people are perfectly able to manage and make smart decisions and also take local initiatives. We rely on local leadership and we will remain aware of their situation and the problems encountered in their communities

What do you think about the Rupert River diversion? Is it good or bad for Crees?

Concerning the Rupert, we believe that the Eastmain project will benefit not only the Quebec collectivity but all the Cree nation. However, we must be assured that the project respects the environment and that it doesn't bother the daily life of said community.

Hydroelectricity is a heritage for all Quebec. With the Paix des Braves treaty, the Cree community has demonstrated its goodwill in the process by showing an excellent cooperation with the rest of the province for the development of Quebec.

We know that the great Cree Chief Matthew Mukash has expressed some mixed feelings, but we can assure you that that the ADQ will respect in full the treaty and we want to assure you all of our full collaboration with your community. This treaty is an

historic agreement and for the Cree community, the Eastmain project represent over \$240 million in economic and benefits (being 15% of the project), this information was taken in the newspaper just recently (La Presse, January 12, 2007, page A2 and 3).

Three Cree communities recently had referendums on whether they should fight the Rupert River diversion. Do you know which communities they were and why they fought the diversion?

We have no answer at this time as we are not leading. A lot of this is being handled by the existing government. However, in the event that we take the lead on the government, we would be in a position to take a stance. There are too many unknown factors at this time.

If Quebec separates, should Crees have a right to stay within Canada?

The ADQ would respect the majority's decision in the event of a referendum. The ADQ will not make a referendum. Our ultimate goal is to have a strong Province of Quebec in a united Canada. This being said, Quebec sovereignty is only hypothetical and at this time, is unlikely to happen.

What does a walking out ceremony consist of?

After one mandat as a deputy in the Ungava territory, I will be able to name every Chief of every community and all ceremonies as I would be part of them (if invited). I must admit the lack of knowledge from my part, but give me a chance to prove you my good faith.

How many Cree communities were there when the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed?

Ditto

What's the biggest Cree community?

Ditto

Anything you would like to add?

The ADQ has never been exposed to corruption and never will be. Our chief Mario Dumont has strong convictions. He believes in the tradition of family and he is an honest father of three young lads. His wife Marie-Claude is part of this political party and is quite involved. Their ideal was described above. All candidates are all down to earth people, workers for most of them and parents. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that all citizens are treated with respect and dignity in a well-established system where elders will be taken care of.

[illegible]

* only certain support staff job titles are included in the pay equity program

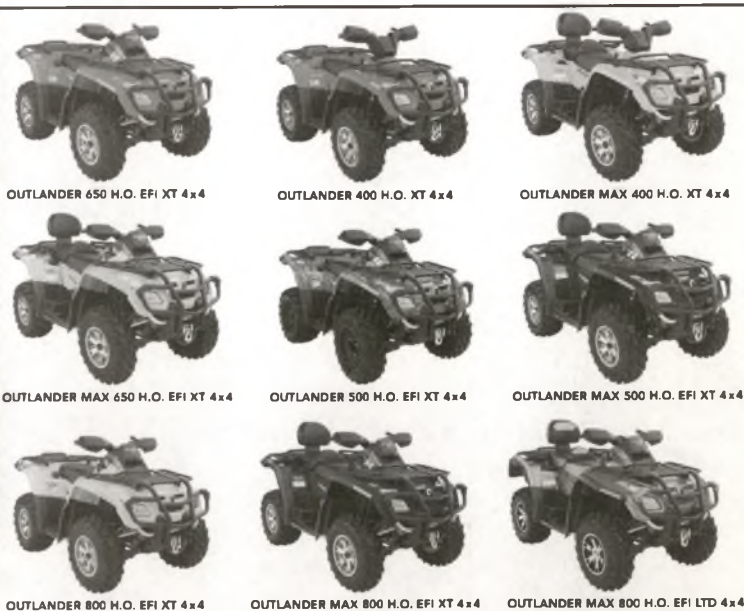


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Lighting up winter

Montreal Highlights Fest brightens the dark months

by Amy German

The Montreal Highlights Festival offers up something for just about everyone, at any age, for any budget. The 2007 edition was no disappointment. This is the only fest that combines gourmet dining from visiting chefs in some of Montreal's finest eateries with dance, theatre, performance art, family fun in a fantastically decorated old port and an evening of all-night activities.

As covering every event of this jam-packed festival would require us to print an edition the size of the city's phone book, we decided instead to visit the festival's audacious ground zero in the Old Port of Montreal to take in its effervescent sights and carefully sequenced sounds.

The site, spanning the quay of the port and up into Jacques Cartier square, was literally transformed from its dull and dirty wintry grey into a wonderland of vibrant colours, light, life and activities. Unlike other major Groupe Spectra-sponsored festivals such as the Jazz fest or Francofolies, family fun is the cornerstone of this festival. Even at 8 pm on a Saturday night, kids dominated the landscape of this festival site, playing soccer in the snow, skating with mom and dad, sliding and dancing.

From a distance, the site was visually overwhelming. Two large geodesic dome structures were set amid endless windblown blue, orange, yellow and red fabrics fastened to various poles. The site definitely had a Cirque de Soleil vibe between the music, flowing colours and street performers.

As we approached the domes, it became apparent that one, comprised of a metal structure and numerous heating lamps, was there to warm up festival-goers. The other, much larger, dome was actually an indoor bar and dance facility covered with white fabric. Throughout the night, alternating crowd shots and flames were projected on the fabric dome so whether one was inside or outside, the projections could be seen. At one point our accompanying photographer, Josh Dobbs, said that it felt like being in a "Hell simulator," only without that nasty burning flesh problem.

Right beside the dome facilities was a large-scale set of "jolly-jumper" bungee harnesses for both children and adults to go for a bounce. As the line up for this attraction was intimidatingly long, we pressed on amid the outdoor fire pits and sausage and marshmallow roasting stands to take in what the crowd was clamouring to see in Jacques Cartier Square.

The most breathtaking aspect of these outdoor festivities had to be the ice slide that started atop the hill and careened down the slope of the square. Comprised of hundreds of carefully cut slabs of ice, it was both an ambitious ice sculpture and a roller coaster ice slide for kids and adults alike. Patrons packed themselves onto little blue sleds to whiz down at alarming speeds to roars of delight and much to the amazement of onlookers.

At 8:30 every night from Thursday through Saturday the sky was ablaze with fantastic fireworks. Exploding into angel-like patterns, in a spectacular array of colours, the display seemed to go on endlessly and made for a delectable cherry on top of one of the most attractive and well planned festivals this city has ever seen!

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satiated by our visit to the old port, there left but one sense to be tantalized by this festival: taste! We chose to take in the Festival of Quebec Cheeses held at Complexe Desjardins. The idea behind this event was to showcase the various delectable delights that are made here in Quebec.

Our first sampling was a semi-soft cheese called Zurigo by Fritz Kaiser, produced in Montérégie. It is creamy in texture and has a lovely bouquet; this cheese melted in our mouths and whetted our appetites for more. Also up for tasting by Fritz Kaiser was the spectacular Raclette du Griffon, which rivals any of the likes from France.

Next up, we hit the Abbaye de Saint-Benoît-du-Lac table that featured an interesting take on Swiss cheese. The Saint-Augustin Swiss Cheese had the most deceiving appearance with its bright orange colour and much softer texture than a traditional Swiss. This cheese had all of the flavour robustness of a Swiss but its milder texture made it an absolute delight.

We then headed over to the Fromagerie La Station Compton table to sample their delights. The stand-out product at this table was the "Comtomme," the town of Compton's Tomme, a semi-soft washed rind of raw cow milk that they produce all year long. With a morsel in mouth, the only thing that came to mind was how wonderfully this cheese would accompany a nice glass of red wine or port, perhaps as an after-dinner delight.

The St-Coeur de Marie Camembert was lovely and chewy, reinforced with Omega 3 and made with raw milk. It was the only product available at the show that was made with 66% good fat. Creamy and smooth with sharp notes, this cheese is sure to please any Camembert fan.

The Suisse Saint-Fidèle from Fromagerie Saint-Fidèle offered up both light and aged versions of their products and for the most part

were "best in show," in our opinion. Washed in apple cider, faint notes of the fruit were detectable within the cheese and were a spectacular accompaniment as would be apples on the same platter.

The Fromagerie L'Ancêtre was the last table we visited to sample their organic, lactose-free products and they featured a mozzarella, medium cheddar, aged cheddar and Parmesan. Initially the idea of lactose-free cheese was reminiscent of health food gone wrong. But much to the amazement of our taste buds, all of these products were excellent. All four cheeses could easily compete with standard supermarket.

This cheese fest ran from Thursday through Sunday for two weeks and did wonders for promoting home made products. The one thing this fest missed was the wine to go along with our sampling, which could have made for absolute perfection.

To find out more about the cheeses featured in this article and for a full list of Quebec's fine cheeses, go to <http://www.fromagesdici.ca>



We were all privileged to have had the opportunity to see all those great teams in Matagami!

Nemaska Waskaganish Eastmain Chisasibi



Thanks! See you next year!

MOVIE PREVIEWS FOR 2007



The 79th Academy Awards ceremonies this year were a bit long and predictable. We sometimes wonder who makes this supposed list of the best movies and actors who make the nominations. Then we remember it is the Academy of previous winners who pick the nominees each year, and have to wonder how tight the Academy is. We do not always agree with their choices, and there will always be a film or actor who we believe should have been in the running. This said, there were some Oscar-worthy performances out of the list of nominees: the best actor, Forest Whittaker (*Last King of Scotland*); the best actress, Helen Mirren (*The Queen*); the best documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*; and, the best director, Martin Scorsese, who incidentally was nominated seven times previously. A list of the other key wins during the night were: best supporting actress, Jennifer Hudson (*Dreamgirls*); best supporting actor, Alan Arkin (*Little Miss Sunshine*); best animated feature, *Happy Feet*; and best movie of year, *The Departed*.

Having put behind us 2006 and the Oscars, let's take a look at the movies to come in this next year to see what we have to look forward to. It seems that 2007 will be predominantly the Year of the Sequel.

The Bourne Ultimatum (August 3) Action, the third installment of the adapted Robert Ludlum novels is due to release this summer. The trilogy stars Matt Damon as Jason Bourne a former CIA assassin with amnesia who the 'company' is trying to eliminate. This movie follows Bourne as he tries to unravel more of his past while being pursued through the streets of Moscow.

Spiderman III (May 4) The comic book hero returns to deal with issues of his former best friend, Harry Osborn, picking up where his villain father the Goblin left off. Goblin will have new gizmos and Spiderman will have two other villains to deal with, the Sandman and Venom. He will also try to salvage some sort of life with his childhood love interest Mary Jane Watson.



Ocean's Thirteen (June 8) The all-star cast of George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Don Cheadle, Andy Garcia, Carl Reiner, Elliot Gould and Bernie Mac return to the big screen, with the addition of Ellen Barkin and Al Pacino. The plot was a little weak in the previous offering, *Ocean's Twelve*. The plot is simple, their old enemy (Garcia) gets into hot water with a tougher character than himself (Pacino) and enlists the group for help. In order to get Pacino, they need to design a new scam.



Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (July 13) This movie is the fifth in the Harry Potter series, and picks up where we left off in the last movie. The Dark Lord has returned, yet the wizardry community continues to deny it, so it is up to Harry Potter and a group of wizards fighting for good

called the Order of the Phoenix. Harry's parents were members of the group, and his 'uncle' Sirius is a key member of the group. This movie promises to be darker than the previous installments, which is not surprising considering the last movie ended with Voldemort gathering with his Death Eaters. Harry, Ron and Hermione form 'Dumbledore's Army' of students to take on the rising threat.

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (May 25) In the third movie, we see Captain Barbossa return to help the crew rescue Captain Jack Sparrow. They travel to the ends of the world to retrieve him from the clutches of the kraken. Meanwhile, Davy Jones under the power of the East India Trading company is controlling the oceans. Together, the pirates must rescue Jack Sparrow, and then take on Davy Jones. Watch out for a cameo by Keith Richards, of the Rolling Stones, as Jack's father.

Shrek the Third (May 18) Once again we return to the land of Far, Far Away. The king falls ill, and since Shrek is married to Princess Fiona he is the next in line to the throne. However, Shrek would rather try with the help of his friends try to establish King Arthur in the throne. Prince Charming, the villain in the last film returns to try to take the throne himself. Princess Fiona gathers her good friends, Snow White, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella to help her out.

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (June 15) The sequel to the popular *Fantastic Four* movie of 2005 will see this band of superheroes face the Silver Surfer. The Silver Surfer is a mysterious visitor from space who has come to prepare planet Earth for destruction. The Fantastic Four must learn to work together as a true team in order to save Earth.

Live Free or Die Hard (June 29) Starring Bruce Willis, this is the fourth installment to the *Die Hard* movie legacy. As techno-terrorists threaten to shut down the United States, John McClane comes out of retirement to do battle in Washington D.C. The terrorists want to shut down traffic, economic markets and



eventually all essential services in the U.S by the Fourth of July.

Rush Hour 3 (August 10) Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan return to make this third installment of the *Rush Hour* movies. The plot has LAPD Detective (Tucker) and Chinese Chief Investigator (Chan) traveling to Paris to unravel a crime syndicate. They will do battle against the Triads promising as much action sequences as in the previous movies.

National Treasure: Book of Secrets (December 21) Nicolas Cage returns in this sequel to the popular *National Treasure* movie. The plot will include Abraham Lincoln and the lost 18 pages from John Wilkes Booth's library.

The Simpsons Movie (July 27) This movie is a big screen transition of the ever popular television series that has been running for eighteen seasons. The movie will introduce new characters and adventures for the family.

I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry (July 20) Starring Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Jessica Biel, Ving Rhames, Steve Buscemi and Dan Aykroyd is about a firefighter (James) who loses his wife. He cannot raise his children on his salary so convinces a friend (Sandler) to pose as his gay partner so he can get domestic partner benefits to pay his bills.

Evan Almighty (June 22) Starring Steve Carell and Morgan Freeman the movie picks up where *Bruce Almighty* left off, except Evan (Carell) is called upon to build an ark.

Blades of Glory (March 30) Starring Will Ferrell and Jon Heder (*Napoleon Dynamite*) as two bitter skating rivals who get banned from singles competition, only to realize a loophole in the couples category will allow them to compete together.

American Gangster (November 2) Starring Russel Crowe and Denzel Washington is a story about a gangster (Washington) in 1970s Harlem who is being pursued by an investigator (Crowe).





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Hero by Nature short film falls short

Hero by Nature is a tragic story with a confusing plotline.

The 15-minute short film is set in the aftermath of the Oka crisis of 1990, when the Sûreté du Québec stormed a peaceful blockade by Kanesatake Mohawks, a police officer died and a 78-day standoff ensued.

The film has been doing the festival circuit for over a year now and has won a couple of awards.

It deals with relationships between racially diverse neighbours, in this case a Mohawk man and his son, and a non-native family led by a hell-bent-on-racism-and-hatred patriarch named Roger Martin.

But we never understand the non-native man's racism. Was it because the Mohawks stood up for their rights? Did he just not like Native people? Or did a Mohawk wrong him at a certain point in his life? We never know.

We do see his hatred towards his Mohawk neighbours, Joe McCumber and his son Jimmy, and his insistence that his own son not go near them.

Laurent-Christophe Du Ruelle, who plays Roger Martin's son, David, beautifully delivers the genuine kindness and understanding of innocence. Untouched by racism and not yet aware of his place in today's society, he and his Mohawk buddy Jimmy, played by Jesse Rath, just like to hang out and play together, regardless of their different colour.

It would have been good if there were more background given as to why the neighbours, despite McCumber's best efforts, don't get along. Roger just looks like he's mad at the world and that his best reason

for hating his neighbour is that he doesn't pay taxes. Perhaps integrating some real-life footage of white townsfolk protesting and yelling racial slurs would have given a little more context to his rage.

The climax of the story, when Roger discovers that his son was saved by Joe McCumber and that the older man was now beneath the ice, needed some work.

It's not a stretch that the guy would rush to save the old man. That isn't necessarily his racist ways being put aside; it's more like something anyone except the most despicable person would do. So he's not a total monster; big deal.

When Roger and David show up at the hole in the ice and McCumber is lying there frozen, the son embraces him and then the credits roll. What? I want an ending! I understand leaving it to our imagination, but I wanted McCumber to perish just so this racist man could live with it the rest of his life. But maybe that's just me.

They also could have made the white guy more heroic, maybe helping the man who just saved his son from drowning or freezing to death? CPR might have been an option?

All in all I have to say that it seems whenever a movie is made by those who did not live the actual events of the crisis, it falls short.

I would give it 2.5 stars out of 5, mostly for trying to tell a solid story, but failing to satisfy the audience and for not getting a solid point across.

To order a copy or to find out more about the characters, go to <http://www.vikingfilm.com/hero/> and judge for yourself.

by Steve Bonspiel

"Roger looks like his best reason for hating his neighbour is that he doesn't pay taxes"





CREE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



Important Notice: New Deadline to submit applications for Territorial Programs

Attention Individuals, Employers and Organizations

The Cree Human Resources Development Department is requesting that all applications for Territorial Programs Initiatives for the fiscal year 2007-2008 be **received no later than March 23, 2007.**

We request prior to your application that you consult with CHRD to ensure that all information required is in your project proposal. Application forms are available at any of our CHRD offices and on our website, "www.chrd.ca". If you have any questions or require further information, please contact any of the persons listed below or visit your local Cree Employment Officer situated in your community, it will be our pleasure to assist.

Coordinator Territorial Programs

Michael Petawabano,

email: michaelp@chrd.ca

Sectoral Officers

Abel Trapper,

email: abelt@chrd.ca

Michael Mianscum:

email: mmianscum@chrd.ca

Matthew Petawabano

email: matthew@chrd.ca

All application must be sent to the Coordination Office in Mistissini at:

32 Amisk street
Mistissini Quebec,
G0W 1C0

Telephone: 418-923-2525
Fax: 418-923-2111

Territorial training and employment initiatives are addressed to Cree Beneficiaries of the JBNQA and aiming Cree Employment Opportunities in the Territory with the Targeted Sectors in:

- ◆ Mining
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Hydroelectricity
- ◆ Telecom
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Tourism
- ◆ Forestry
- ◆ Regional Sales & Services

Whapmagoostui: No bar on Category I lands

We are writing with respect to an article that appeared in the January 19, 2007, issue of the *Nation* at page 7.

The article by Steven Bonspiel reports on Calvin Blacksmith wishing to establish a bar in Mistissini. The article suggests that Whapmagoostui has a bar on its Category IA land, indicating that Mr. Blacksmith's proposed establishment would operate under the same rules as the "Whapmagoostui Social Club".

This inference is misleading and completely false. For your information, the Social Club mentioned in this article, as well as the Quilalugaq Resto-Pub (a public bar), are both located within the Northern Village of Kuujuaaraapik.

Although, some members of the Whapmagoostui First Nation patronize the Social Club and Quilalugaq Resto-Pub, the WFN Council has no jurisdiction over these establishments. Jurisdiction of Council is limited to its Category IA lands.

Furthermore, many people in Whapmagoostui believe that these *regulated* establishments contribute to our community's health and social problems because of the potential and actual abuse of readily-available alcohol.

It is highly unlikely, given our past and current experience with the sale of alcohol within such close proximity, that Whapmagoostui would ever consider permitting the establishment of a bar on any of its Category IA lands, at least in the foreseeable future.

We understand that each community faces different challenges that must be addressed according to that community's priorities and history. In this regard, our comments should not be taken as a statement on how other Cree Nations in Eeyou Istchee are or should be dealing with the sale of alcohol within their lands.

Finally, we ask that the *Nation* retract the afore-

said misleading statement in this article.

Sincerely,

Chief Losty Mamianskum
c.c. WFN Council members.
Whapmagoostui Quebec

No consent in Mistissini

The council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini wishes to inform the general public its position regarding the article titled: "A social club for Mistissini" which appeared in the January 19 issue. The article as stated is misleading as it implies that the Council is in support of such an establishment. We wish to inform the public that the Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini did not give consent to the selling of alcohol in our community.

Furthermore, the Cree Nation of Mistissini wishes to clarify that at present, Mistissini's status is a dry community. A request to change this status from dry community to the allowance of sale of alcohol would require community members' approval. It is absolutely necessary to involve the members in order to change this status.

In an internal discussion in November 2006, the Council debated the request to sell alcohol beverages in the community. Given the nature of the request and its' unknown impacts, the Council feels that only the people have the right to make decision of this magnitude.

Given the above, we will take this issue to the members at a public meeting we will call in the near future.

Chief John Longchap
Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini

Editor's note: Chief Mamianskum is correct -- the *Nation* did err in stating that a bar is situated on Whapmagoostui's Category I lands. The confusion arose from the fact that the community of Kuujuaaraapik is almost indistinguishable from Whapmagoostui, though this does not excuse the error, which we regret. We appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight.

However, Chief Longchap is incorrect in writing that the article stated or even implied that the Mistissini Council supported the bar proposal. The article made absolutely no statement or implication as to the whether the Council supported or opposed the proposal. We respectfully disagree with Chief Longchap's assertion.



Wachiya

On March 26th, the population will be called upon to renew their confidence in the Government of Quebec currently under the direction of Jean Charest.

You will be asked to elect your Member of the National Assembly to ensure that the priorities and interests of the Ungava riding are represented.

For the past twenty years, I have worked with various political structures and developed an expertise in defending issues and projects. In the last two years I have worked full time as Political Aide to the Minister responsible for Northern Québec. This experience allowed me to work with the population and leaders of your region and has prepared me to serve as the Liberal Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for the Ungava riding. I am extremely enthusiastic and motivated at the idea of working for you and invite you to show your support for me.

My priorities include:

- ✓ **Health** – Improving health care and social services by promoting 'healthy living habits' as well as diabetes prevention and treatment programs.
- ✓ **Education and Training** – Helping to provide Cree youth with better access to education and training as well as helping them broaden their horizons so they can better prepare to enter the work place.
- ✓ **Support to Families** – Improve and develop the overall family service policy by increasing child care services, by working to help strengthen family policy so that families, both new and old can all benefit.
- ✓ **Communications** – Completion of the community broadband network project.
- ✓ **Economy** – Encourage 'Wind Power Development Projects' which will bring direct and long-term economic benefits to the Cree Nation.

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Rupert: God forgive them

Wachiya,

I am a 24-year-old Cree youth and I am writing this letter to express my disappointment in our leaders and the generation before us. I have been watching the progress of the EM-I and EM-IA projects and I am disgusted with the government for their blatant disregard for the well being of the people of Quebec. They are using media against us to portray a false image of us and them. If you watch the news closely the numbers seem to change depending on who is telling the story, I have seen the 2002 vote reported to be at 73% and just a few days afterward I see it at 78%. This to me is proof of the inaccuracy or corruptibility of the press.

The three communities of which would be the most affected by the diversion had their own referendum at the beginning of November 2006. They had expressed their concern and were ignored. To make matters worse, our leaders and older generations just stood by and let it happen. Since first contact our people have been conditioned to capitulate

at the governments every demand and the majority of the older generations are oblivious to this. Our leaders knowing the consequences of these actions and the negative effects it will have on nature, our society, and our future generations, chose to bow down rather than to fight for what is right. To give up a fight before it has begun is cowardice and unforgivable. These are the people that lead us... and these are the people that I refuse to follow.

Many of the youth don't believe in our leaders and this is having an effect on how they perceive authority. Not having faith in our leaders causes friction between our generation and the generation before us. Consequentially causing a rift between the leaders of today and the leaders of tomorrow.

We were once a proud people and now I find it hard to find things I can be proud of. I am very disappointed in our leaders both native and non-native and I hope that God will forgive them for their avarice and capitulations.

Simeon Wapachee



building our region together

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reconstruisons NOTRE RÉGION

RECONSTRUISONS NOTRE QUÉBEC

Pour bâtir notre avenir ensemble

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Le 26 mars 2007,

ġġġġġġ 26, 2007 ġġġġġġ,

■ **je vote pour un candidat de la région**

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■ **je vote Parti Québécois**

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■ **je vote Luc Ferland** ☒

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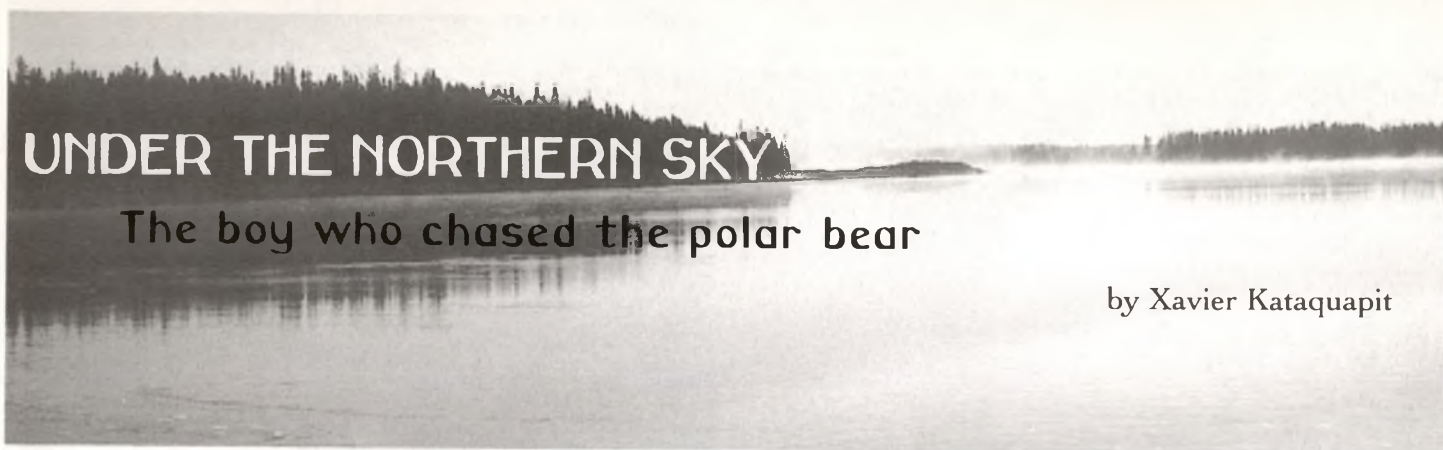
Oui
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QUÉBÉCOIS

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

The boy who chased the polar bear

by Xavier Kataquapit

I had the chance to spend some time with my older brother Anthony this week. He is the traditional person in our family and every time I visit him I learn a little bit more about the traditional Cree way of life. It doesn't matter where I meet my brother, whenever I am around him I feel like I am connecting with an old part of our Cree culture and the Elders he has spent time with. He is far more connected to the land and the wilderness than anyone I know. No matter where we are, whenever we start talking, we may as well be sitting in the middle of the wilderness at a campfire surrounded by tall pines on the shores of a quiet northern river.

Many of his stories share a common thread of knowledge or ideas. They reinforce the belief that we are connected to the land and that we should show respect and thankfulness for everything that Mother Earth provides for us.

One tragic story that Anthony related as a lesson in respect was the legend of a proud young boy who thought he was faster and stronger than the animals he hunted. This story was passed on by an Elder. This young boy lived about a hundred years ago during a time when our people followed a traditional and nomadic way of life without the benefit of motorized snowmobiles or outboard engines. He lived with his parents and siblings and they followed the animals throughout the year. Every time they passed through the lowlands and tundra of the James Bay coast, the boy would run after what he thought were timid polar bears.

Normally polar bears are respectful creatures that are bold enough to venture near people but cautious in keeping their distance. Most hunters know that these animals are just as fearful of us as we are of them. A single bear has reason to fear a group of strange upright animals that walk on two legs.

This boy's parents warned him many times to leave the animals alone and Elders repeated the same warning to show respect for every creature great and small. However, the boy continued his habit of chasing the bears. After all, he thought he was smarter than them and it pleased him to scare them. He boasted that he had no reason to fear these powerful predators because he was young and he would be able to use his strength and ability to dodge any attack and run back to safety.

He continued his bear chasing on many occasions. One spring day when his family landed their canoes on the shores of a creek on the southern portion of what is now Polar Bear Provincial Park, they sighted a polar bear. As the parents handled their

canoes, the boy could not resist this bear and he gave chase on the hard-packed soil of the coastal tundra. He had great stamina, strength and speed. The boy chased the lumbering bear away from the canoes. His father cried out for him to stop this obsession and to quit for his own safety but they watched as the bear and the boy moved away from them. The land goes on for miles without any features on the James Bay coast and soon the two were just mere specks on the horizon.

The family looked on with fear, as they had many times before and followed as best they could. This time the chase was different. At one point, the silhouette of the boy was of him waving his arms and they could hear him crying out in fear. The bear had turned and it was now attacking the boy. The bear had run to avoid an unexpected chase and at one point saw that there was only one small person behind and giving chase. In what must have been a terrible turn of events, the bear stopped and assessed the situation. The bear realized that the boy was far from the protection of the others so the chase turned immediately.

The story tellers say that the boy did his best to run from the bear. His speed carried him for some time but the great polar bear is a strong, powerful and swift creature. Polar bears run at speeds much faster than a human. The boy never had a chance by himself.

As the family approached they found the boy's entire spine had been ripped out of his body. They wailed in anguish at this brutal attack as the polar bear watched from a distance. They realized at one point that this was not a normal bear kill but one that was meant to leave a message for the human hunters. This became the warning legend of "The boy who chased the polar bear." From that time on Cree families took this story forward and shared it with the young people to reinforce the idea of respect for other animals and creatures on the land.

This is only one Cree story from countless tales of how people can bring misfortune onto themselves through their disrespect for the land, the animals and other people. My people in the north understand that every negative act against the land or its creatures will come back to haunt them. When you live so close to the land and you need everything around you to survive you had better be appreciating your connection because your life depends on it. It makes you think about our own situation today. What have we done to produce global warming? I think we all know the answer. It is time to stop chasing the bears.



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BIRTHS - 100

On February 25 2007. I just wanted to say congratulation to my friend Christina Howson and Gilles St-Gelais on their baby boy. Take good care of your baby boy. Once again, congratulations. from Lana... take care in North-Bay

Congratulations to my brother David Matthews & his girlfriend Sherryl Mettaweskum on the Birth of their baby boy Mark David on March 2, 2007 at 7:14 PM weighing 7lbs 14oz. Take good care of him his a beautiful blessing from up above. With love Sonia, George, Alexis and Daniel

BIRTHDAYS - 101

Birthday wishes going out to my sweet & precious princess Janine Kanatewat on Monday 7/07. Happy 4th Birthday, princess and many many more years to come. Soon, you'll be going to school. You were excited when I told you, you'll be going to school & you said, "Yes, Bus". I can't wait to see you get on the bus. I love you with all my heart, my precious princess. Again, Happy 4th Birthday. With Lots & Lots of Hugs & kisses, Your Mom, Lorraine K. (Chisi). xoxox

We would like to wish our cousin Faith Roberta Shecapio a happy 3rd birthday on March 17/07. Luv u always fr. Urion n Kyra

We would like to wish our boy Urion Jimikin a Happy Birthday on March. 21/07. He'll be celebrating his 4th birthday. We love u so much. Fr. mom & dad n baby sis Keewaa'sh

I would like to wish Happy Birthday to my sister Charlotte Kanatewat Moar on March 15/07. I wish you many, many more birthdays to come! Take a day-off from your work & relax on your special day. Love you always big sis! Love your sister Judy

Happy Birthday to my grandpa Johnny on March 13, 2007. Hope you have the bestest day. I Love You, my Ba-Ba. From Jayda.

Happy Birthday to my smart, cut-siepo son Ryan! He will be 5 years old on March 28. Happy Birthday to my adorable mom, Nancy Mianscum on March 12, my sweet-iepie nephew Keenan Nakogee on March 17, my hunky brother Leslie Mianscum on March 26. I love you guys forever and have a great day! Love RobinC

Wishing my beautiful cousin Abigail Maya Petawabano a Happy 9th Birthday on March 25th. I love you so so much, have a nice birthday and many many more to come luv always your cousin Sky Matoush

Another year has come and gone and this year my buddy lore will be celebrating her 22nd birthday!! I promise I'd send these out tilll, I guess when I'm, lol!! hah kidding!! Happy Birthday to you on March 25th Lore!! Take Care of yourself; and I hope we get together more!! lovyba babe! From; yr buddy ol pal' Seq

Happy Belated Birthday to my niece Janine Kanatewat who turned 4 on March 7/07, sorry I couldn't celebrate your birthday with you, but I was thinking of you on your special day girl! Also, she'll be starting school this fall, owah shash ahh mook...lol!!! Luv ya always girl! Love auntie Judy

Happy 5th birthday to my son Joshua Pheonix Teddy Diamond - Blackned in Waswanipi, His B-day day is March 11. Many more to come. I will be there to celebrate this special day with you and mommy. I love you always, your daddy JIMBO-Nemaska

Happy belated Birthday to my boyfriend Kevin Mianscum in Mist. On March 7th/2007 who will be turning 35 jk. I love you and miss you and when the hell are you coming back to visit moui keeyah.It's been weeks. Thanks for being there for me when I needed you the most. I love you soo much but its better when hearing you say you love me more everyday. Remember I really really really like you.lol! I wish I was there with you to celebrate your special day and many more to come. Fr: Cynthia B/ned

Happy B-day to Joshua Diamond in Waswanipi, Qc. I hope your day will be just as special as you are, I miss you soo much especially being with you and you making me laugh all the time. Your such a sweet boy. Cute as ever and sooo adorable in your own little ways. I miss you and come back to Nemaska sometime to visit. Love your auntie Cynthia Blackned. I cannot wait to see you again my adorable one.

Happy 4th birthday to our sister Marisa Whiskeychan all the from Chisasibi on March 17 2007. Wish you could celebrate ur day with

us.We miss you !! FROM: Marcus, Mya and baby kateleen'sh. Wask

Marisa Angel Joy Whiskeychan celebrated her 4th birthday on march 17 2007 and this time in Chisasibi with her favorite Uncle.I'm sure you had a blast in OJay last year on ur day. Hope you had a dora cake again. Miss you sooo much. Can't wait for you to get on the bus this summer.Happy 4th birthday my girl!I was thinking of you on your special day.Take care in C Chisasibi.I will see you soon. Love always;your mom Bella Jolly.(Waskaganish)

We would like to say happy 2nd birthday to our cousin in Waswanipi her name is Daisy Clara Alice Salt-Longchap on March 22 2007 We love and miss you so much hope you be back soon here in Chisasibi from Your Cousin Jaylen and Jaysen salt In Chisasibi

We would like to say happy birthday to our mommy Sharon Napash on March 31

2007 We love you mom thank you for everything that you've done for us. Hope you have a great day on your birthday thanks for being there

when we need you around we love you so much love always your 2 handsome boys Anthony & David Napash xoxoxox

We would like to say happy birthday to our Aunt Sharon Napash on March 31/07 Hope you have a special day on your birthday we love you so much, love always your handsome nephews Jaylen and Jaysen Salt

I would like to send a Birthday Greetings out to my pops "old man" Ricky Mark who will be celebrating his "I'm not sure" on March the 8th. haha. From your oldest son Nigel.

Belated Birthday Greetings to my little brother Clifford Faries who celebrated his 13th on February 25th. "Ur Finally A Teen" You're getting big so fast. And also for my cousin Melissa Faries who is celebrating her 18th on March 2nd. AND Last but not least. I would like to send Birthday Greetings out to my youngest nephew Jonas Faries-Wiestche who is celebrating his 1st Birthday in North Bay. I love you & miss you boys!! And again I would also like to send another greetings out to Melanie Esau, Ricki Mark &

EMPLOYMENT



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Graphic Designer Wanted

Cree Programs of the Cree School Board is looking for a person on a contract basis to design book covers for our Cree literature. The majority of our books are of native content. You will have the opportunity to design one of our books. Instructions will then be given by this department and from there they will decide whom to use whenever the need is required. So if you are a graphic designer and interested in this offer, please contact:

Cree Programs at (819) 855-2230
ext. 3262 for Linda or ext. 3231 for Mabel.

CLASSIFIEDS

my last father Joe Faries a Happy Birthday who will be celebrating on March 8th. Hope all of you had and have a great day. From Maggie (Wask)

We would like to say happy birthday to Romeo Napash on March 1st and Adele Napash on March 2nd And to my beautiful niece daisy Salt-Longchap, my cousin Katie Napash and to Nancy Pepabano-Napash both on March 22 and to my sister Sharon Napash on March 31st Hope u had a great day on your special days from Alice, Jaylen and Jaysen Salt

We would like to say Happy birthday to our Grandma Winnie Sealhunter On March 2/07 Happy Birthday Winnie Hope you had a great day on your special day Love From Jaylen And Jaysen Salt

Wishing my niece Abigail Petawabano a Happy Birthday on the 25th of March. I Love you and wish you many more birthdays. Luv Always ur aunt Rachel

Happy Birthday going out to George M.Longchap on March 1st, John Metabie on March 10, Audrey Petawabano & Austin Saganash on March 16, William Swallow on March 25, Daisy Longchap on March 21, Sarah Spencer on March 22, Tony Petawabano & Tanika Lonchap on March 31st 2007. Happy birthday to you all and many more to come. From The Metabie Family

A Happy belated birthday To My Nanny Florrie. Thanks for everything Love you so much! xox love, TJ

Wishing a happy birthday to my childhood friend Valentina Bosum from here in Ouje-Bougoumou, but she now lives in North Bay. Just wanted to wish you a happy 14th birthday and hope you have fun on your special day. We miss you so much here in Ouje when you don't hang around with us anymore, but at least you come and visit us once in a while... iight peace out girl...love ya!*friendly hug* from: your first friend in school (pre-k) lol

Wishing my gookum Eva & Choomshoom Allan Kitchen a happy 45th anniversary on Feb 23rd...wow..45 years together...thats long..for me tho...hehe...well gookum..happy anniversary again...I love you so much you have done so much for me..and I thank you for that...:D:D...agoodeh misthee jeh-

saachiidin 3 nii: choosim Whitney aka..ninii xox-

Sending birthday greetings to my daughter's 2nd Birthday on March 12, Ardelle Denise Shecapio. All my love, Mom.

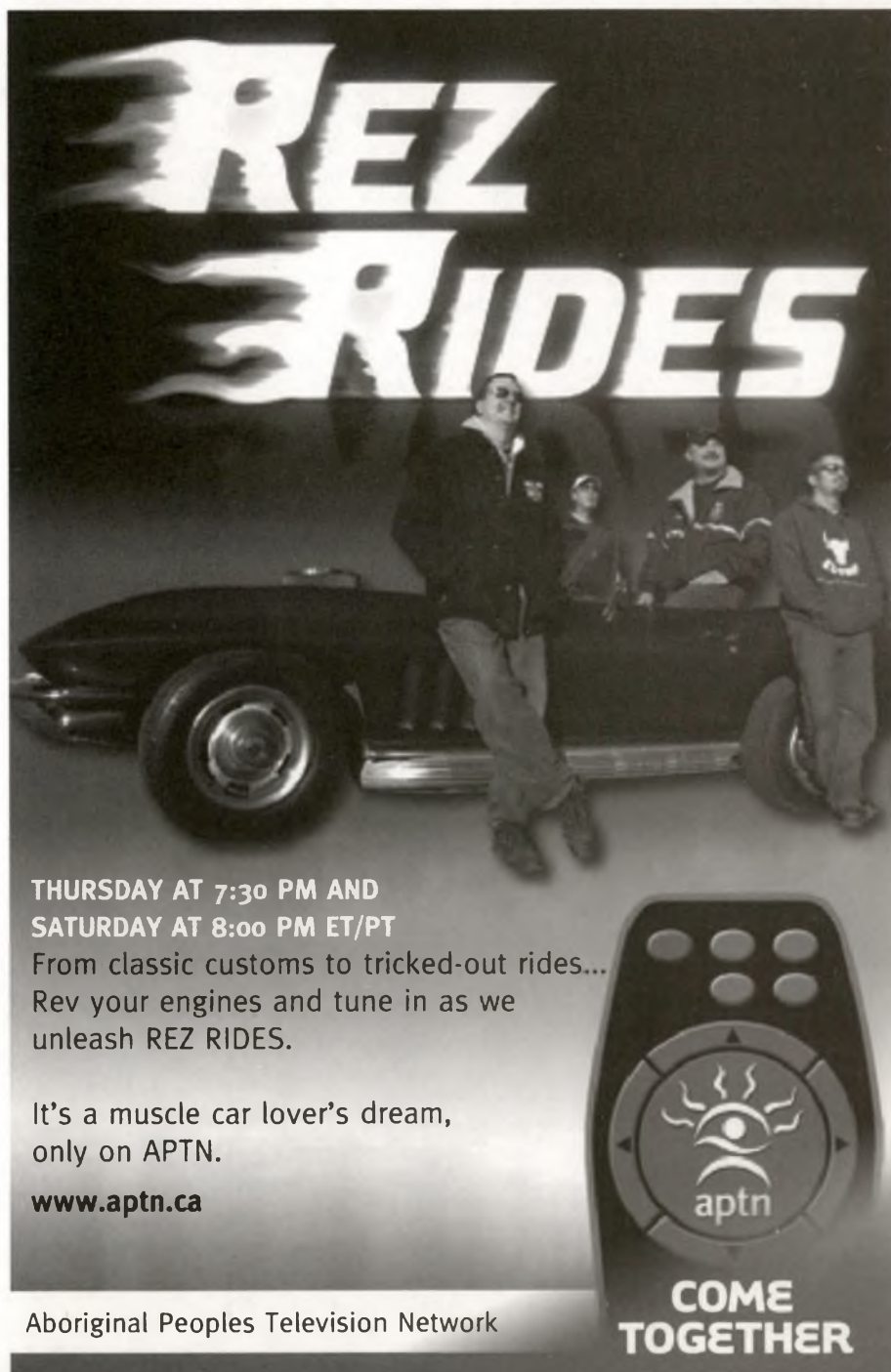
Happy belated 1st birthday to my nephew Ezekiel Mianscum on February 18, 2007 and a very Happy 5th Birthday to my nephew Bedabin Coon-Come on March 22, 2007. Love you both so much, fr: your auntie Judy.

PERSONALS - 300

I am a single mother to a beautiful baby girl who will be turning 1 in June , I plan on going back to school this coming fall either in Ottawa or Montreal depending on where I will get accepted and I am looking for a babysitter for my daughter who's willing to stay in the south..for more information you can contact me , by email at

kiera30@hotmail.com or at home # 819-977-0323

I would like to say hi all of my friends in Mistissini who are:Natasha Mattawashish, Sany Neeposh, Nathaneil Swallows, Paul Swallows, and to Dwight Swallows. Hope to see you guys in June. I miss you all. Can,t wait to meet you again. Bye from:someone you met at the camp meeting. Take care & write back!



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Time to celebrate!

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FIRST NATIONS PAVILION



Université du Québec
en Abitibi-Témiscamingue



Chairperson Cloutier, which is also the director of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Center, declared: "The First Nations Pavilion owes its development to the relentless and vigorous efforts of women and men from a diversity of nations, languages and communities. I don't know of too many projects in Quebec that succeeded in rallying the support and interests of First Nations: academic circles, civil society, political leaders, the private sector and a whole region."



Close to two hundred people answered the invitation of the chairperson of the Board and the president of Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) Mrs Edith Cloutier and Johanne Jean, to celebrate the coming construction of the First Nations Pavilion at the Val-d'Or campus of UQAT. The spokespersons, aboriginal or not, agreed on this initiative reinforcing links between cultures.



Mr Pierre Corbeil, Quebec Natural Resources and Wildlife Minister and deputy for Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Northern Quebec, has worked hard to rally his government to the project.



Mr Geoffrey Kelly, Quebec Aboriginal Affairs Minister: "A project we had to support!"



President Jean also announced her intention to submit to the Board of UQAT the creation of a new Aboriginal Training and Programs Development Unit (ATPDU) that will allow significant aboriginal participation in the development, management and delivery of programs. "Real achievement, she concluded, will come when all of our children gain access to higher education... Then, and only then, will we reach true freedom."



The co-chairmen of the fundraising campaign of the UQAT Foundation, Mr Fernand Trahan and Dr Ted Moses, two strongly committed men



To close the ceremony, Mr Oscar Kistabish ties the wampum belt to serve as the symbol of the common pledge to peaceful coexistence, sharing of knowledge and respect for each other

www.uqat.ca